

Academic content standard(s) – Grade 7 Language Arts

Write persuasive compositions.

- a) State a clear position in support of a proposition or proposal
- b) Support the position with organized and relevant evidence
- c) Anticipate and address reader concerns and counter arguments

Big idea

A well-written persuasive essay convinces an audience to believe an idea or take an action by appealing to emotion, ethics, or reason. Persuasive writing convinces others by including strongly worded evidence such as examples, facts, opinions, statistics, and quotes.

Learning Goals

Students will:

- Understand the elements of persuasive writing
- Compose a concise and effective persuasive thesis statement
- Establish strong support for the persuasive position using specific examples, facts, and details
- End a piece of persuasive writing with a call to action
- Utilize the steps of the Writing Process

Success Criteria

I can:

- Tell the reader why this topic is important or controversial
- Write a compelling thesis statement to begin my persuasive essay
- Select evidence to persuade the reader and to support my claim
- Select and include the most compelling facts to persuade the reader
- Select and include opinions to persuade the reader
- Use appropriate citations to document where I obtain my facts and opinions
- Use the feedback from my peers to edit the draft and create a final essay

Typical misconceptions

- Students find it difficult to connect their prewriting to their writing. At extremes, prewriting actually seems to prevent students from starting the real writing for which they will be graded
- Students believe "paragraph form" means you simply start a new paragraph every 3-5 sentences
- Students repeat ideas or paragraphs. The more they write, the more they repeat
- Students use inconsistent form within an essay. (Sometimes a paragraph is about one main idea, sometimes it's about many.)



Considerations for Diverse Learners

Refer to your Resources folder for some things you might consider when revising the plan for ELLs (*Revising Lesson Plan for Middle School Writing ELLs*).